

C. COMPARISON OF INDEPENDENT NORTH AND SOUTH KOREAN CAPABILITIES

1. The Republic of Korea army is approximately twice the total strength numerically, of the North Korean Army, yet in combat elements the two armies are approximately equal.

- (a) In available fire support weapons, the Republic of Korea army is weaker than the North Korean Army. (tanks and self-propelled guns, medium artillery, heavy mortars and AAA guns)
- (b) The ROK is stronger in light artillery pieces and in light mortars.
- (c) North Korea could use AAA as artillery.

2. North Korea is far superior in air power.

- (a) The South Korean Air Force, equipped with obsolescent aircraft would be rendered ineffective in the first few days of conflict.
- (b) This would leave South Korea subject to air attack and with no air defense.

3. Manpower in North Korea is critical as compared with South Korea.

4. North Korea has advantage from logistical standpoint.

- (a) The land-line of supply in North Korea requires less personnel to operate than the water-line of supply serving South Korea.
- (b) The Communists could continue covert supply without detection.

5. North Korea would win an independent struggle if no foreign powers intervened.

- (a) Air superiority and covert logistical capabilities would be decisive.

B. SOUTH KOREAN ORDER OF BATTLE

1. South Korean army strength is approximately 610,000, of which 54 percent represents headquarters and service troops.

(a) Four divisions have been activated since the armistice.

(b) One field army, 4 corps, 20 divisions.

(c) Weapons strength:

(1) Artillery - 1094, mortar - 2819, tanks - 267.

2. South Korean Air Force strength is approximately same as time of armistice.

(a) 118 conventional aircraft (77 F-51 fighters, the remainder trainers and light observation aircraft).